

8 June 1999

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Dockets Management Branch
Food & Drug Administration
Dept. of Health & Human Services
12420 Parklawn Drive, Room 1-23
Rockville, MD 20857

Re: **DOCKET #98P-0203/CP**

Dear FDA:

I am writing to encourage you to grant the petition that would stop "forced molting," a practice of egg producers, in which chickens are not allowed any food at all, for a week or even two.

How such animal abuse can be tolerated is beyond my comprehension. Many birds die of starvation during this cruel withholding of food. Except for these birds being "food," this would be criminal animal cruelty, punishable by law. Furthermore, because of the birds' weakened condition, there is more Salmonella infection, which is a risk to human health.

In Great Britain, forced molting has been banned. Why we are behind them in taking this step, I'd like to know.

Please promptly grant the petition filed under docket #98P-0203/CP, to ban the starving of chickens. Thank you.

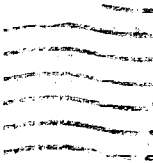
Yours truly,


(Miss) Lee Mahavier

98P-0203

C1620

Miss Lee Mahavier
3772 Pin Oak Circle
Doraville, GA 30340



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